

# Forbidden Dance

TOKYOPOP®



3 Hinako Ashihara

# Forbidden Dance

Volume 3

Written and Illustrated by  
Hinako Ashihara



 **TOKYOPOP**

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# FORBIDDEN DANCE 3

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**AYA FUJI**  
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.  
SHE HAS BEEN TRAINING IN  
CLASSICAL BALLET SINCE  
SHE WAS VERY YOUNG.



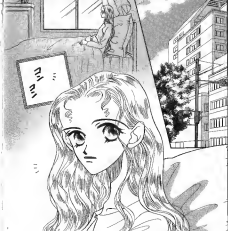
**AKIRA HERRY**  
LEADER OF THE  
ALL-MALE DANCE  
TROUPE "COOL."



**DIANA ROBERTS**  
A WORLD FAMOUS  
BALLERINA.

## STORY

AYA IS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WHO LOVES BALLET. DURING A PERFORMANCE AT A BALLET COMPETITION, SHE INJURED HER FOOT AND DEVELOPED A HORRIBLE FEAR OF DANCING ON STAGE. SHE QUIT DANCING BECAUSE OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF HER ACUTE STAGE FRIGHT. ONE DAY, AYA GOES TO A BALLET PERFORMANCE OF "COOL" AND IS DEEPLY MOVED BY AKIRA'S STYLE OF DANCING. THIS MOTIVATES AYA TO BEGIN DANCING AGAIN. AYA WISHES TO DANCE WITH AKIRA AND ASKS AKIRA TO LET HER JOIN "COOL." DESPITE THE STRICT REQUIREMENT SET FORTH BY AKIRA, AYA SUCCESSFULLY BECOMES A MEMBER OF "COOL." DIANA ROBERTS, A HIGHLY-RECOGNIZED BRITISH DANCER, COMES TO SEE AKIRA. SHE CAME FOR AN IMPORTANT PERFORMANCE IN JAPAN, HOPING THE FACT SHE HAS A SEVERE ANKLE INJURY, IN ORDER TO HELP DIANA THROUGH HER PRODOCCAMENT, AYA SECRETLY TAKES OVER THE SECOND ACT. THANKS TO AYA, DIANA SUCCESSFULLY FINISHES THE FINAL ACT, BUT SHE COLLAPSES AS SOON AS THE CURTAIN GOES DOWN...



### Ashihara's Diary

✦ Mr. Sashira

✦ Age 89

He is pretty old, but looks like he has another 50 years to live. I found super hard an old character like him. The good news is his face is pretty easy to draw. Elderly people are often hard to draw, you know?









AND YOU GOT TO DANCE ON THE BIG STAGE...

I HOPE IT WAS A GOOD LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR YOU.



I AGREE WITH YOU.



MR. JONES SEEMED A BIT DOWN.

OH, YOU THINK DIANA WILL BE OKAY?



ONCE THEY LEARN THE PROXY HAS YOU, YOU WON'T BE VERY POPULAR.

THE ENTIRE CAST IS FURIOUS ABOUT THE SWITCH.



WHA...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

DID HE KNOW I'LL ALONE?



I'M SORRY. I WAS JUST...



...HER PERFORMANCE IN THE THIRD ACT WAS EXCELLENT...

THANKS TO YOU...

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE SHE PULLED IT OFF WITH THAT INJURY.



I'M NOT MAD AT YOU.

I KNOW YOU ARE SYMPATHETIC TOWARD DIANA.



I AM SO  
SCARED.

DIANA'S  
ORDER...

...MAKES ME REALIZE  
THAT BEING A DANCER  
IS AN UNCERTAIN  
BUSINESS.



...WITH  
AKIRA.

BUT I  
CAN  
KEEP  
GOING...



IT'S ALL  
UP TO  
HER NOW.

A REAL PRO  
KNOWS WHAT  
SHE HAS TO  
DO TO GET  
BACK ON THAT  
STAGE.

I  
KNOW



IF YOUR  
SKILLS DON'T  
IMPROVE SOON,  
I'LL KICK YOU  
OUT USING  
YOUR OWN  
ACROBAT SHOES

I AM TELL-  
ING YOU,  
STRAIGHT  
UP, THAT  
YOU'RE  
THE WORST  
DANCER IN  
TOWN!

... I AM  
NOT THE  
WORST!  
I'M  
GOOD!

EARLIER  
SAID  
THAN  
DING,  
DANCER  
GIRL.

YOU JUST  
WATCH HOW  
AWESOME I'LL  
BE FOR THE  
ANNIVERSARY  
PERFORMANCE!

ANYWAY,  
DANCER  
GIRL, WHY  
DON'T YOU  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
YOURSELF?

YOU'VE BEEN  
HELPING  
DIANA'S  
SUGGEST AS  
AN EXCUSE  
TO NEGLECT  
YOUR OWN  
TRAINING.

URG!







THAT'S  
HARUKICHI  
SUHIEDO,  
CEO OF THE  
SUHIEDO  
GROUP.

WHAT?  
A SPONSOR?

AND STAY CALM.  
UNKNOWN BETTER  
THAN TO GET  
A SPONSOR WHEN  
COMES YOUR  
ANNIVERSARY.

Has not been for  
nothing



THE DISCOUNT  
STORES IN FRONT  
OF TRAIN  
STATIONS!

EXACTLY.  
HE CHANG  
THE CHAIN.

OH,  
RIGHT.

YOU KNOW  
HOTEL  
SUPER  
PHAS-  
MACY?



HE WALKS HIS  
PET IGUANA IN  
THIS PARK EVERY  
SUNDAY. I DO  
MY HOMEWORK.

Oh...I see his point.

THEY WON'T  
LET ANYONE  
SEE HIM IN PERSON  
AT THE COMPANY.



SO WHY  
DID YOU  
BRING  
ME?

HE  
LOVES  
YOUNG  
GIRLS.

I thought  
you were  
just  
a girl. Even  
a girl like  
you  
is one of  
the  
best of  
the  
world.



JUST SO YOU  
KNOW, DANCE  
GIRL. HE'S  
SELECTED ME  
FIVE TIMES  
ALREADY.

MAYBE  
HE DOESN'T  
LIKE SALTY  
ATTITUDES...



HE QUITTED  
FROM THE  
COMPANY LAST  
YEAR AND NOW  
STAYS BUSY  
WITH CHARITY  
EVENTS AND  
A BUNCH OF  
OTHER CULTURAL  
STUFF.

IF HE AGREES  
TO FORK OVER  
SOME CASH,  
"GOOL" COULD  
BE IN GOOD  
SHAPE.



A SPONSOR  
SOUNDS GOOD.

BUT WELL  
IT BE EASY  
TO FIND  
ONE?



WE ARE  
ACTUALLY WAY  
UNDER-FUNDED  
TO CARRY  
OUT THE  
ANNIVERSARY  
PERFORMANCE.

BUT  
I DON'T  
WANT  
MONEY TO  
RUIN MY  
PLAN.

SO  
I HAVE  
A PLAN...

I HAVE  
AN IDEA.

LOOK...  
THERE...



# Ashihara's Diary

◆ No 1 ◆

Hello there.  
This is Ashihara. Thanks  
for reading Forbidden  
Dance Volume 3.  
Hope you enjoy the book.

I finished up the last  
episode of Forbidden  
Dance the other day.  
The series continued  
for one year and four  
months (if my memory  
is correct). It felt like  
a long time when I was  
writing it, but now that  
the series is over, it was  
really a brief amount  
of time. It was still  
hard work, though.  
Still I really enjoyed  
working on this series. A  
lot of people who provide  
bullet sent me letters,  
which made me happy.  
Thanks again for all  
the support!

GO TO  
HELL!!

YOU  
CREEPY  
OLD  
FART!!

ほかに

うん

うん



LET'S  
HAVE A  
FEEL...

な  
て



NO!!  
AYA!!



NOT BAD.  
IT COULD  
HAVE A  
BIT MORE  
BOUNCE.

か  
か  
か  
か  
か













I CAN  
SEE THERE  
IS GREAT  
POTENTIAL  
FOR  
SUCCESS.

I HAVE  
CHOSEN TO  
BE A PART  
OF THE FUTURE  
OF THIS BALLET  
COMPANY.

I HAVE  
MADE UP  
MY MIND.

IF IT WERE AN  
ALL-MALE BALLET  
COMPANY, IT WOULD  
BE MUCH MORE  
POPULAR AMONG  
BOYS.

YOU MIGHT BE MORE  
SUCCESSFUL.

E...

BUT...  
WITH  
DUE  
RESPECT,  
SEN.

SHE THROWS  
THE WHOLE  
THING OFF  
BALANCE.

OH, SO  
THAT'S THE  
DARK SIDE  
OF THE  
COMPANY,  
HUN?

UH, YEAH.  
IT'S AN INTEREST-  
ING STORY.

NOW!  
THANK YOU  
SO MUCH!

お  
...

I AM MORE  
THAN HAPPY  
TO BE YOUR  
SPONSOR.

WAZZ!  
HE, BUSHIDO...

THAT'S  
ENOUGH  
OF HE...

PEOPLE!!  
CEASE  
DANCING!!



IGNORE THIS  
SIMPLE REQUEST,  
AND YOU CAN  
FORGET ABOUT  
RECEIVING A  
SINGLE DIME  
FROM ME.



HEY!  
HOLD ON A  
SECOND!

ONLY...  
YES?



I AM  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
BUSINESS!

I HAVE  
NO CHOICE  
TO WASTE  
MY MONEY ON  
SOMETHING  
USELESS!

SILENCE!  
OR I'LL  
LEAVE!

AYA IS AN  
OFFICIAL  
MEMBER  
OF "COOL!"

YOU CAN'T  
JUST ORDER  
US TO KICK  
HER OUT!



I HAVE  
ONE NON-  
NEGOTIABLE  
CONDITION.



HOW-  
EVER!!



I WANT  
THIS GIRL...  
TAKEN OUT  
OF THE  
ANNIVERSARY  
PERFORMANCE.

LOSE HER...  
OR LOSE  
MY MONEY.





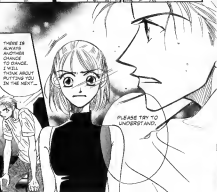
### Ashikara's Diary

✧ Name

✧ Age

*He makes a frequent appearance in the latter half of the series. He tends to get the short end of the stick. He was supposed to be a character that is not so dependable in a pinch, but a good mediator when things are going well.*

















HE DOES TO  
WORK EVERYDAY...  
...BUT HE NEVER  
MISSES A REHEARSAL.  
HE DOES A LOT OF  
STUDIO CHORES, TOO.




HE HAS A VERY  
IMPORTANT  
PERFORMANCE  
IN A FEW  
DAYS.



I CAN'T HEAR AN  
INSTRUCTION, SO  
HE SHOULD BE  
ALL RIGHT.



THE  
SAULTS ARE  
LIFTING  
A LOT OF  
STONES.



2000年12月29日  
 2000年12月29日  
 2000年12月29日



...AREA HAS BEEN  
WORKING TOO HARD



# Ashihara's Diary

✦ No. 2 ✦

The most difficult scenes to draw were the dining scenes. I am not very good at sketching. Once I started this series I realized my lack of experience was more and regretted that I hadn't practiced sketching enough. I'm determined to practice more.

As you have already noticed, there are some scenes in England in this volume. I've been to England myself — not really on business but for pleasure. I was hoping to go to England because I knew I would write some scenes related to that country. Well, I happened to go on a trip to England, all of a sudden.



YOU NEED  
TO WAIT  
FOR THE  
TAXI.

HEY,  
WAIT.

THAT'S  
GOOD.  
THEN...  
BYE.

I'VE GIVEN UP  
ON BEING  
IN THE  
PERFORMANCE.

WHY ARE  
YOU  
CRYING?

I don't  
remember  
much after I  
called Tokyo.

SORRY YOU  
GOT SO  
WORRIED.

OH...

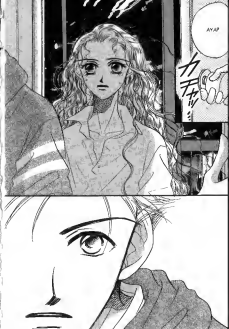
YOU  
DON'T  
HAVE A  
FEVER  
ANYMORE  
?













PLEASE,  
DIE!

ALLOW ME TO  
BE IN THE  
PERFORMANCE!



NO MATTER  
HOW EAGER  
AND  
MOTIVATED  
YOU APPEAR,  
NOTHING  
WILL  
CHANGE MY  
MIND.



MR.  
SUEHIRO...



I WANT  
TO DIE...



DIANA...?



"I'M A GUTSY GIRL WHO  
EVEN GOT THE  
ICE KING HIMSELF TO SAY  
"I WANT TO DANCE WITH YOU!"

admitted to  
it years ago.

I WILL SHOW  
YOU WHAT  
I'VE GOT  
OLD MAN.

I WILL SHOW  
HIM SOME GUTSY!!





### Ashikara's Diary

Oops, there are no more main characters!







WHEN WE FIND  
HER, SHE IS  
FRANTICALLY  
DANCING WITH  
NO SHOES ON.  
THIS WILL WORSEN  
HER INJURY.



SHE GETS  
OUT OF THE  
HOSPITAL  
EVERY NIGHT.



SHE IS  
OBVIOUSLY  
FRUSTRATED  
AT NOT BEING  
ABLE TO  
DANCE...

SHE APPEARS  
AGITATED...  
PARANOID...  
SHE'S JUST  
NOT ACTING  
NORMAL.



IF HE CAN'T  
GET THROUGH  
TO HER,  
SHE IS GOING  
TO DIE.



SHE  
THROWS  
UP  
EVERY-  
THING  
SHE PUTS  
IN HER  
MOUTH.

HER BODY  
APPEARS TO  
BE REFUSING  
TO FIGHT TO  
STAY ALIVE.



HOW COULD  
THE GREAT  
DIANA ROBERTS  
DIE?



IT'S A  
JOKE.

I'M NOT  
GOING  
TO DIE.



DIANA!!

ARE YOU  
OUT OF  
YOUR MIND?  
WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING?



# Ashihara's Diary

★ No. 3 ★

A friend of mine asked me if I would like to take a trip to England with her. Of course I gave her a positive response. They unexpected plan turned out to be such a nice trip. I was so excited to be there, I even forgot to take pictures of some places I needed for the story. It's part of my good memories of England now.

"Princess Line" was published in Bessie Sharp Comics DX, while Forbidden Dance was still going on. I have never realized on a one-shot story while writing a series at the same time. I had such a tight schedule with two stories going on. I was under a lot of stress, especially the three months before Princess Line was due.



CAN YOU WAIT HERE FOR A SEC?

I WANT TO GO AND SAY HI TO HER...



DON'T GO.



AKIRAH!



IT'S GOOD THAT WE DIDN'T MISS EACH OTHER I ON THE WAY.

I CAME TO TELL YOU THE LIGHTING STAFF IS ARRIVING SOON.

HOW IS DEANA DOING?



DO YOU  
REALIZE  
WHAT YOU'RE  
SAYING?

YOU'RE GOING  
TO ENGLAND  
RIGHT  
BEFORE THE  
BIG GUY

YAMANE,  
CALM  
DOWN!



YOU'RE  
THE ONE  
WHO PUT  
THIS THING  
TOGETHER!

YOU KNOW  
HOW IMPORTANT  
THIS IS FOR  
ALL OF US!

HOW  
COULD  
YOU PULL  
OUT LIKE  
THIS?



SHE'S ALL  
NEEDED UP.

WHAT?



SHE JUST  
ISN'T NORMAL...

I THINK  
SHE'S ABOUT  
TO HAVE  
A MAJOR  
NERVOUS  
BREAK-  
DOWN.

THE  
ONLY WAY  
I CAN  
HELP HER  
NOW IS...



I AM...

...GOING TO  
TAKE HER  
BACK TO  
ENGLAND.







ANDRA  
CONVINCED  
MY DOCTOR  
TO  
DISCHARGE  
ME...

...BY  
SAYING  
WE WERE  
GOING  
BACK TO  
ENGLAND.

I  
THOUGHT  
YOU WERE  
STILL  
IN THE  
HOSPITAL.



Even  
though...

GOING  
THROUGH  
BACK TO  
ENGLAND  
DOESN'T  
MEAN I'LL  
BE ABLE TO  
DANCE LIKE  
I USED TO.



YOU'RE  
NOT IN  
THE SHOW?

WHY DO YOU  
THINK I'M  
PRACTICING  
HERE ALONE?



I AM  
THE ONE WHO  
IS REALLY  
UNLUCKY.

I CAN'T  
GET ON STAGE  
EVEN WITHOUT  
ANY INJURY.



I don't  
want  
to dance  
anymore.

YOU ARE STILL A  
DANCER. DANCE  
FOR ME. AFTER ALL, I  
WANT YOU TO DANCE.  
YOU SHOULD BE  
FINE. MAY THAT I LOVE  
TELLING YOU THAT  
I AM SORRY FOR  
TO YOU.

I AM USELESS  
IF I CAN'T DANCE  
THE WAY I DID.  
STOP THIS STAY-  
WORKSHOPING  
NONSENSE.  
IT'S YOURS TO  
LOVE.

YOU  
KNOW  
WHAT?



BE CAREFUL  
WITH YOUR  
FINGER-  
TIPS



DIANA...

TRY TO  
PAY MORE  
ATTENTION TO  
THE  
DETAILS.



SO ARE YOU  
GOING BACK  
TO ENGLAND  
WITH AKIRA?



EVEN IF  
YOU CAN'T  
DANCE  
THE WAY  
YOU DID  
BEFORE...

...YOU CAN STILL  
MOVE A LOT OF  
PEOPLE WITH  
THE ELEGANT  
MOVEMENT OF  
YOUR FINGERS  
ALONE.

I DON'T  
KNOW  
WHAT'S IN  
ENGLAND.

BUT YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
GIVE UP ON  
YOUR TALENT  
SO EASILY.



THAT'S  
RIGHT,

BECAUSE..  
I LOVE  
BALLET

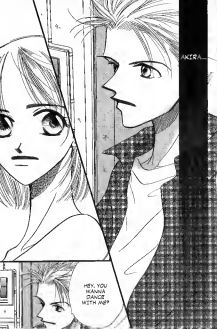
EVEN  
THOUGH  
YOU CAN'T  
DANCE  
ON THE  
PROPOSE-  
NANCE?

ALL I CAN  
DO IS  
TRAIN MY  
HARDEST..

I AM NOT  
A GENIUS  
DANCER  
LIKE YOU  
AND AKIRA.



DON'T YOU  
LOVE BALLET  
TOO?





EVERY TIME I GET  
CLOSE TO MY DREAM,  
ACHIEVING THAT  
GOAL SEEMS TO  
SLIP FARTHER AWAY  
FROM ME.



THIS  
MUSIC...

YEAH...

IT'S THE  
MUSIC YOU  
AND I WOULD  
HAVE DANCED  
TO AT THE END  
OF THE POSE...  
IF JUL (SHEIKO)  
HADN'T BULLIED  
YOU OUT OF  
THE SHOW.

SURE...  
TO WHAT  
SONG?

LET ME  
CHOOSE  
THE  
MUSIC.



IT'S A  
PHANTOM  
DANCE.



THEN  
HERE COMES  
THIS OLD  
CREEP WHO  
TANKS ME OUT  
OF MY DEBUT  
PERFORM-  
ANCE.

PHANTOM,  
BECAUSE  
I WORKED SO  
HARD TO JOIN  
"1000" JUST...  
TO DANCE...  
WITH YOU.

AND NOW,  
YOU'RE TALKING  
ABOUT GOING  
TO ENGLAND  
WITH DIANA.

PHANTOM?

THAT'S  
RIGHT.







BUT NOT  
BEFORE  
GIVING  
ME...

...OR LISTENING  
WITH DIANA...

...FOR ENGLAND...

...THAT  
AMAZING  
KID...

THE  
VERY  
NEXT  
DAY...

140  
for  
n...  
ES



140  
for  
n...  
ES

I'LL TRY TO GET  
BACK AS SOON  
AS POSSIBLE.



### Ashihara's Diary

~\* "Bad" member No. 1 ~\* Age approximately 19

He is a mysterious member who often fights with Yumina. If you take some time to look for him, you can see that he makes a frequent appearance in the scene. Why? Because his hands is easy to show. A friend of mine noticed he has the same hair style as Sakura, the boy in "Princess Love" Oh, well!







IF HE FINDS  
OUT AKIRA  
ISN'T HERE...

LET'S  
FACE IT.

...THAT OLD  
SEER WILL  
STEP DOWN AS  
OUR SPONSOR  
AND THE  
PERFORMANCE  
WILL BE  
CANCELLED  
AND THAT WILL  
BE THE END  
OF "GOD".

IT'S AKIRA'S  
PERSISTENCE  
ALONE THAT  
SUCCESSFULLY  
CONVINCED  
MR. SUBIRO  
TO PROVIDE US  
WITH FINANCIAL  
SUPPORT.



THAT MEANS  
FELLING AKIRA'S  
SPOT WITHOUT  
CHANGING THE  
PROGRAM.

WE HAVE TO  
DO EVERYTHING  
NOT TO LET MR.  
SUBIRO KNOW  
ABOUT AKIRA'S  
ABSENCE.



AND DON'T BE  
A CRY BABY  
AND SAY YOU  
CAN'T DO IT  
WITHOUT  
AKIRA.

YES!

AYA.

TRY YOUR BEST  
TO SHARPE  
YOUR SKILLS  
AND CATCH UP  
WITH THE BEST OF US  
BY THE END DAY  
SO THAT HE WON'T  
NOTICE YOU'RE  
PARTICIPATING  
IN IT, OKAY?



IF THERE  
IS ONE  
MEMBER  
MISSING...

WE INCLUDED  
ALL THE  
MEMBERS OF  
"GOD" IN THE  
PROGRAM.

...WE NEED  
YOU TO FILL  
IN THE  
EMPTY  
POSITION  
OVER HERE.



IT'S  
A PLAN "B"  
JUST IN CASE  
AKIRA CAN'T  
MAKE IT  
BACK  
IN TIME.



HOLD ON,  
YAMANE!



WE DON'T  
HAVE A  
CHOICE.

IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA  
FOR ONE, LETTING AYA  
IN WILL VIOLATE MR.  
SUBIRO'S CONDITION.

BESIDES,  
WE DON'T  
HAVE THE TIME  
TO CHANGE THE  
POSITIONS OF  
THE DANCERS  
FOR THE  
PERFORMANCE."



PRETTY WELL.

HOW ARE THE TICKETS SELLING?

WE EXPECT THEM TO BE SOLD OUT BY THE DAY OF THE PERFORMANCE.



I WILL ARRANGE TO PLAY "COOL" PROMOTIONAL VIDEO CONSTANTLY...

...ON THE BIG SCREEN IN FRONT OF THE STATION.

IT WILL ACT AS A BIG ADVERTISEMENT.



Plus Plus

THAT'S GOOD NEWS.

LET'S WORK A LITTLE HARDER TO MAKE SURE.

ALL THIS THERE HAS TO DO IS MAKE THE PERFORMANCE A SUCCESS.

ONE ALSO INVITED A LOT OF MEDIA PEOPLE.

BE BRILLIANT, AND YOU WILL DRAW MORE MEDIA ATTENTION. MEETIN' "COOL" WANTS IT OR NOT.



AGAIN!  
AGAIN!!

AYA,  
YOU ARE LAGGING!!

I WON'T.

ONE  
MORE  
TIME!!

THE ANNIVERSARY  
PERFORMANCE  
WILL BE TAKEN.

ONE  
MORE  
TIME!!

I NEVER  
EXPECTED  
THAT...

I WOULD BE  
ABLE TO SEE  
THE ANNIVERSARY  
PERFORMANCE  
THIS TIME.

ONE  
MORE  
TIME!!







WHAT DO YOU MEAN, IT?

WITHOUT AKIRA...

...IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK.

YOU KNOW DAMN WELL WHAT I MEAN, WITHOUT AKIRA, "GOOD" IS NOTHING!



WITHOUT AKIRA, WE WILL MISERABLY FAIL, AND RECEIVE A NASTY REVIEW!

THE MAJORITY OF THE AUDIENCE IS COMING TO SEE AKIRA'S PERFORMANCE.

IT WILL BE ENOUGH TO DESTROY A SMALL BALLET COMPANY LIKE US. WITHOUT AKIRA, WE'RE JUST ANOTHER RANDOM BALLET TROUPE!



GUCH



CAN YOU STAND UP?

OOOPS.

I'M SORRY. ARE YOU OKAY, AYAO? I KICKED YOU RIGHT IN THE FACE, DIDN'T I?

DON'T YOU GET IT, TETSUYA? WE ARE SLAMING OUT OF TIME!!

THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR HER. SHE'S BEEN DANCING FOR SIX HOURS WITHOUT A BREAK! SHE IS GOING TO COLLAPSE IF YOU KEEP PUSHING HER LIKE THIS.

HO—

HOLD ON, YAMAHITO!

ONCE MORE FROM THE TOP!

# Ashikara's Diary

◆ No 4 ◆

No matter how hard it was, I was satisfied with how "Pirates Love" turned out. I haven't written a high school romance for a while, and I enjoyed writing on it the high school!

I want to also have a night school attached to it. After 3 o'clock in the evening, the atmosphere changes in the building. Such old memories helped me create the image of some scenes. I asked a friend of mine, who is a graduate student in pharmacology/science, to do some research on drugs for me. I promised her I would buy her a dinner. I haven't got around to doing so yet. Sorry! Next time, when I have a chance!

I will see you all in the last volume!

Hiroshi Ashikara  
September 9, 1993





HE TOLD ME  
DIANA IS MOST  
IMPORTANT  
TO HIM.



BUT...

HE SAID  
"I CAN'T  
LEAVE HER  
ALONE."



...SHE WAS THE  
FIRST  
WIFE...

HE KISSED ME...



AKIRA  
KNOWS THIS,  
BUT THAT  
DIDN'T STOP  
HIM FROM  
GOING TO  
ENGLAND  
RIGHT  
BEFORE  
THE PERFOR-  
MANCE. HE'S  
HARD TO  
UNDER-  
STAND.

AKIRA  
IS SUCH  
A BIG  
INFLUENCE  
ON "COOL"  
— PHYSICALLY  
AND  
MENTALLY.

I GUESS  
NOT. YOU  
I GOT  
PUNCHED  
RIGHT  
IN THE  
FACE.

NO, I AM  
NOT  
OKAY.



THEY LIVED  
TOGETHER.

I WONDER  
WHAT KIND OF  
RELATIONSHIP  
AKIRA AND  
DIANA HAVE,  
ANYWAY.  
I'M CLUELESS  
ABOUT THAT.



IS  
THAT...

...TRUE?

HE SAID TWO  
YEARS AGO...  
WHEN HE  
WAS 15  
YEARS OLD.

WHAT AN  
INDIVIDUAL,  
YOU KNOW?

WHAT?!

MR. JONES  
MUST KNOW  
SOMETHING  
ABOUT THEM.

I KNOW  
IT'S NOT  
THE TIME  
FOR  
CRYING...

MY LIFE  
IS A  
MESS...

...ONLY  
BECAUSE  
AKIRA  
ISN'T  
HERE.

HIS  
KISS  
LEFT ME  
FLOUTING,  
THEN  
WISERABLE  
AND  
CONFUSED...

WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN?

YOU  
WANT TO  
FIND OUT  
MORE ABOUT  
AKIRA AND  
DIANA  
DON'T YOU?

MR. JONES  
PROBABLY  
KNOWS  
THEIR TRUE  
RELATION-  
SHIP.

1/30  
た  
た

I AM SO  
PATHETIC.

AYAY

I CAN'T  
TAKE THIS  
ANYMORE.









DURING THE  
AUDITION FOR REGENT'S  
BALLET SCHOOL...

...JIANA,  
WHO WAS 10  
AT THAT TIME,  
WAS ASKED,  
"WHY DO YOU  
WANT TO DANCE?"  
DO YOU KNOW  
WHAT SHE SAID?

THERE  
ARE  
MANY  
BALLET  
DANCERS  
LIKE  
HER.  
THEIR  
PARENTS  
ARE MORE  
ENTHUSIASTIC  
ABOUT THEIR  
CHILDREN BEING  
PROFESSIONAL  
DANCERS THAN  
THE CHILDREN  
THEMSELVES.



IT WAS  
HEAVY,  
BUT SHE  
WOULDN'T  
HAVE  
GOTTEN ON  
WITHOUT  
HER OUT-  
STANDING  
TALENT.

"IF I DON'T  
KEEP  
DANCING, MY  
MOM WILL  
DESERT ME."

"I AM  
USELESS  
IF I CAN'T  
DANCE."



SHE GETS  
CAUGHT UP  
IN FEAR,  
AND EVEN  
BECOMES  
SUICIDAL.

SHE HAS  
UNCONT-  
ROLLABLE  
TREMORS IF  
SHE STOPS  
DANCING  
FOR A  
WHILE.

I BELIEVE  
THAT THE  
PARANOIDA SHE  
DEVELOPED  
DURING HER  
CHILDHOOD  
CONTINUES TO  
HAUNT HER.



I'M DETERMINED TO  
LIVE MY OWN LIFE...  
FOR NOBODY BUT MYSELF.  
I'LL CONTINUE TO  
DANCE AND STAY ALIVE.

DIANA?

I AM GOING TO  
LEAVE YOU,  
MOM!!







I AM HERE TO  
LEAVE YOU.

I HATE YOU,  
MOM!!

to  
her

ENOUGH OF THIS  
NONSENSE!!



YOU ARE  
EVERYTHING  
TO ME...



EVEN IF YOU CANNOT  
DANCE ANYMORE!

EVEN IF YOU HATE  
ME SO MUCH!!



AKIKO'S  
MOTHER  
LEFT HIM...

...IN SUCH  
A TRAGIC  
WAY.



I WAS SO AFRAID  
YOU WOULD  
ABANDON ME.

I'VE BEEN  
DANCING FOR  
YOU, MOM,  
BUT I'VE HAD  
ENOUGH!



...WAS  
TRAUMATIZED  
BY WATCHING  
HER MOTHER  
THROW  
HERSELF IN  
FRONT OF  
A CAR.



HE'S FOUND REAL FRIENDS,  
AND  
A PLACE TO  
BE HIMSELF.

WHAT?

...I WAS  
RELIEVED TO SEE  
HIM...

... SWILING...  
NEXT TO  
YOU.

I KNOW  
HE WILL BE  
ALL RIGHT...  
I'M HAPPY  
FOR HIM.



BUT AT  
THE SAME  
TIME, I'VE  
DEVELOPED  
A NEW  
CONCERN.



I DON'T WANT  
HIM TO SUFFER  
A BIG BLOW.

WHAT IF  
HE LOSES  
EVERYTHING  
HE HAS WORKED  
SO HARD FOR  
THESE FRIENDS  
AND "COOL"?



HOW COULD A  
PARENT NOT LOVE  
HER OWN CHILD...?

WHEN HER  
HUSBAND  
LEFT HER, SHE  
COMMITTED  
SUICIDE.

AKOBA'S MOTHER  
WAS A  
JAPANESE  
DANCER AT  
RESENTE'S.

AFTER  
LOSING BOTH  
OF HER  
PARENTS,  
AKOBA MUST  
HAVE  
QUESTIONED  
HER PLACE IN  
THE WORLD.



HE WAS A  
VIRDLANT  
AND  
UPTIGHT  
KID.

EVERYONE  
WAS WORRIED HE  
WOULD HAVE  
A NERVOUS  
BREAKDOWN  
SOMEDAY.

AKOBA WAS  
15 YEARS  
OLD AT  
THAT TIME.  
HE HAD TO  
LIVE AT  
RESENTE'S  
DORM FOR  
A WHILE...



WHEN I  
SAW  
HER THE  
OTHER  
DAY.

In the next volume  
of...

# Forbidden Dance

After saving the day at the Tokyo performance, Aya is more convinced than ever that she deserves to be a member of COOL. And the fact that she's falling head over ballet slippers for Akira only fuels the fires of her determination. Coincidentally, COOL is perched at a pivotal time... The troupe's anniversary show is fast approaching, but Akira has run off to England to bring back Pianna! All is not lost, however, because the ever-diligent Aya has a plan to save the dance company. The question is... will Aya be able to do what it takes to secure COOL's future?

Find out in the dramatic conclusion of...

**Forbidden Dance!**

DAYS  
HAVE  
PASSED...

...AND AKIRA  
HAS NOT  
COME BACK.

IT IS NOW  
THE DAY  
BEFORE THE  
PERFORMANCE.

AKIRA IS...

...NOT HERE...

Sunday 15th  
7:30 PM ~

Performance

2:00 PM ~  
meet with troupe  
2:30 PM ~  
dress rehearsal  
{ Program "K"  
Scene 1 ~



# Forbidden Dance

Aya was thrilled to dance in place of world-famous ballerina Diana Roberts, but her joy is overshadowed when Aya learns that Akira and Diana have a long history together. Is it romantic or professional...or both? Meanwhile, COOL needs to find a sponsor for the upcoming anniversary show, so Aya and Akira approach a wealthy yet demanding business-

man. He agrees to contribute on one condition—but it's a condition that Aya doesn't agree with. Will Akira put Aya's feelings first? Just when Aya thinks she has things figured out, Akira announces he's taking Diana back to London. Aya is slowly learning that succeeding in the world of dance takes more than just talent...much more.



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